year 1983-84. This has been recently revised to Rs. 78.40 lakhs. Rs. 64.04 lakhs have so far been spent on this project upto July 1988. Major works are reported to have been completed by end of November 1987.

Scheme for medical treatment of gas victims in Bhopal

2679. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any long term plan for giving medical treatment to Bhopal Gas Victims;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any Central assistance has been provided for the purpose; if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh sought financial assistance from the Central Government for expenditure on various relief and rehabilitation measures taken by it/proposed to be taken. The Government of India has given a medium term loan to the extent of Rs. 76.62 crores so far. The State Government has also prepared a long term action plan for rehabitation of gas victims. The action plan *inter-alia* includes relief and rehabilitation, projects concerning medical, economic, social etc.

In addition, the Indian Council of Medical Research has initiated several research projects to assess the health status of the gas exposed persons in the short and long term. As part of these investigations, community clinics and additional facilities for diagnosis and treatment of the Bhopal gas victims have been provided to Gandhi Medical College and J.N. Hospital at Bhopal.

Out-break of Kalazar Epidemic in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

2680. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kalazar epidemic has broken out in various parts of the country, particularly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) what is the estimated number of persons who died of this disease during the last three months;

(c) what are the causes of this epidemic; and

(d) what preventive measures are being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Considering the epidemiology of Kalazar it is clear that there is no outbreak of this disease in Bihar or in any part of the country. However, the endemicity of the disease has been established in Bihar and West Bengal. Some of the States like Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and Pondicherry have also reported sporadic cases.

(b) 47 deaths due to Kalazar have been reported by the State Health authorities during current year upto 27th July 1988.

(c) Kalazar is chronic disease caused by a parasite leishmania donovani. The parasite is present in the body of the patient and further transmitted by bite of sandfly. The incubation period is generally 2 to 4 months.